

Philippians 1:6, Eternal Security

4.8.15

Work of the current team:



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We continue in our study of Paul's letter to the Philippian church in Philippi. Last time we met, we talked about priorities. We talked about joy and how joy is totally different and distinct from happiness. Happiness has to do with our happen-stances, while joy has to do with seeing our circumstances through the sovereignty of God. We saw that from verses 3 through 5:

Philippians 1:3-5

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Paul rejoiced as he thought about the wonderful believers in Philippi. He remembered them in his prayers with joy and he was grateful that they had chosen to help him monetarily in the work of spreading the gospel. They were truly partners with him in the Gospel. And folks you know people love you if they are willing to invest money in you. 😊

Now Paul had joy even though he was chained to a Roman soldier. He was so thankful for the fact that God had a plan even in his trying, difficult circumstances. Paul had chosen to rest in God's plan, even though he couldn't see exactly how it was all going to play out. Because this is what Paul knows...

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

See the words, "I am sure of this?" The verb for the word "sure" means: "**to be absolutely convinced.**" He is saying, "I am absolutely convinced of this." What is THIS?

SALVATION

God is the author of salvation. He knew Adam and Eve would blow it in the Garden and He had the plan in place before the juice of the forbidden fruit ran down their throats.

Think back with me to the work in Philippi. The first convert was Lydia. Remember what we read about her in Acts 16 a couple of weeks ago? The Lord opened her heart.

Acts 16:14

14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Listen, the Lord brings salvation to us. He provided it through Jesus and draws us by His Spirit and gives us the faith to believe. But, YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE HIM. He won't do it for you. The Spirit of God opened up Lydia's heart to pay attention what Paul was saying, and she ultimately gave her life to Christ. But, understand that it was the work of God. Think of it like this...



He set the table. All we have to do is pick up the fork and eat.

And so the church at Philippi began when God, “opened the heart of Lydia.” She was the first convert in Philippi, the first convert in Europe, and it all came about because GOD BEGAN THE GOOD WORK. He set the table and Paul delivered the gospel and Lydia believed. And then God began a good work in the slave girl who was delivered from the demon and then the Philippian jailer.

You see, salvation is the “GOOD WORK” Paul is talking about. See it...

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The word “good” means “noble.” Salvation is a noble work. And it is a work. Salvation is a “one time” event, but it’s also a lifelong process. Do you remember this process? We talked about this in our study of 2 Timothy. The good work starts at the moment we are saved...

3 Stages of Righteousness for the Believer:

#1 Justification: At salvation Jesus imputes (gives to you) His righteousness. When God looks at you, He sees Jesus’ righteousness covering you.

#2 Sanctification: During your life as a believer you grow in righteousness (right living). You are refined through righteousness.

#3 Glorification: In heaven your righteousness will be complete. God will finish the good work He started in you and bring it to completion.

Salvation is a noble work that the Lord will bring to completion... The word "completion" means: "perfected" or "to bring to conclusion" or "to the end"... or "to the finish." Notice: Paul doesn't say, "I hope this works out." He says, "I'm confident of this. I am assured of this. I am absolutely convinced that he will bring my salvation to full completion.

F.B. Meyer who was a Baptist pastor from London and friend of D. L. Moody who died in 1929 said this about this verse:

"We go into the artist's studio, and find there unfinished pictures covering large canvas and suggesting great designs, but which have been left, either because the genius was not competent to complete the work, or because paralysis laid the hand low in death. But as we go into God's great workshop, we find nothing that bears the mark of haste or insufficiency of power to finish, and we are sure that the work which His grace has begun, the arm of His strength will complete." F.B. Meyer

It's true. What God begins He completes. This is what is called the perseverance of the saints or "eternal security." And it's crucial that you understand this. **Turn to Romans chapter 5.**

I want you to know something that's essential for the believer: based on this verse from Philippians 1:6, you can be confident in your salvation and that God is going to get you to Himself in heaven.

Listen, God saves us by His power and He will keep us by His power. Let me show you this...

Romans 5:9-10

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

You say, "What does that mean?" Listen carefully, if when you were an enemy of God (you didn't know Him and that makes you an enemy)...if when you were His enemy and you could be saved by Christ's death, how much more once you are a son or daughter of God, can you be KEPT by His life? Look at verse 10 again.

Romans 5:10

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Isn't that a powerful thought! It's a tremendous thought! If His death can save you, then His living can keep you. Jesus will make certain that we get to the Father. That's eternal security. That's the essence of what Paul is saying in Philippians.

You see, you might have problems, you might have anxieties, you might have many difficulties, you may have experienced many failures, but this will not stop what God is doing in your life. He promises us He will bring us to Himself in glory. John 6:40 says:

John 6:40

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

See that phrase, “on the last day?” Go back to Philippians 1:6. It’s similar.

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Now what is “the day of Jesus Christ?” What does that mean? Is it “The Day of the Lord” that we studied so much about in 2 Thessalonians? Remember, that phrase in Scripture always refers to divine judgment on sinners. It always refers to the outpouring of God’s wrath. Remember we saw that in 2 Thessalonians 1. The “Day of the Lord” speaks of the day of judgment, the day of punishment of sinners.

Surely that couldn’t be the case here! Well it’s not. This is a different day. It’s not the “Day of the Lord,” but is instead “the day of Christ Jesus.” In scripture, the “Day of Jesus Christ” refers to when believers will be glorified in heaven. It’s when Jesus brings us into heaven before the Father. It speaks of a day when believers will become perfect, when salvation will be complete. We will have completed the process of: justification and sanctification, which culminates in our glorification. Look down in verse 10.

Philippians 1:10

So that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

We will be presented by Jesus to His Father blameless, pure and holy. Paul says the same thing in chapter 2, verse 16.

Philippians 2:16

Holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

So whenever you see “the Day of the Lord,” you know you’re talking about judgment on sinners. But, whenever you see “the Day of Christ,” you know you’re talking about the glorification of saints in heaven.

Listen, we are in the hands of the Good Shepherd and no one can snatch us from His grasp.

John 10:28-29

**28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**

Let me explain this how Charles Stanley explained it years ago. It’s like God has an “interlock” grip on us. Even if we let go, if we stumble, fail or fall...He will not let us go.

Let me show this to you in one of my favorite passages of Scripture. **Please turn to Ephesians 1.** Paul is explaining to the Ephesian church the spiritual blessings that we have in Jesus. He shares that at salvation, we were adopted into the family of God and then he gets to verse 13 and says this:

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

For many years I struggled if I was saved. I doubted my salvation so much and Satan tore me up.

Share story of later high school years...going into college and even early marriage. Very, very uncertain. Scared... Petrified if I was saved. I put it all on my shoulders, but then I realized, it's all on the Lord's shoulders and that's how He wants it.

I finally realized I had to put my trust in the Lord and follow the recipe of Scripture. It's not about me or my feelings...it's about taking the fork and eating that which God has put before me.



Here's the recipe:

Romans 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:13

13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

1 John 5:13-15

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. **14** And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. **15** And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Okay...so what does all of this mean? “What’s the implications?” Listen to this, will you please? If you focus on what’s wrong with your life, you will get depressed. But if you focus on what you are going to be...what you will become, you can get excited.

Now, you can take your choice. You can moan, and groan, and mumble around about what isn’t the way it ought to be, or you can just look at what is going to happen. You know what’s first exciting about that?

Paul has this sense of joy, this overwhelming triumphant joy that says, in the end, we get heaven! That takes the pressure off doesn’t it? Keep seeking Him. Keep loving Him. Keep obeying Him. But, know that you will mess up and you will sin (don’t wallow in it), but know that God is not going to lose you!

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Yes, the Lord is going to finish the work He has started in us. He is going to bring it to completion when we stand before Him in glory. It’s guaranteed. It’s a done deal. We don’t have to worry. I love how Bible commentator John Stott says that we can view this verse as a guiding principle for all of life:

The assurance God gives us not only guarantees the outcome; it guarantees too every experience of every day, for in all things God is “putting the finishing touches.” Good news, bad news, difficulty, blessing, unexpected happiness, unexpected trouble—it all has a purpose. Concerning all such situations, faith affirms, “Without this, I would not be ready for the day of Christ.” This is the immediate, practical and strengthening benefit of the truth of Christian assurance.

...the outcome is guaranteed. God is working to a schedule, and *the day of Jesus Christ* is fixed in the Father’s diary. It is as if he is under contract to himself and to his Son. The day will come and everything and everyone will be ready in time for it. There will be no last minute rush, no botching up, nothing that will “do for now;” strikes will not delay it nor carelessness mar it. The Father has weighed up the merits of his Son and the proper response to his work at Calvary, and nothing will suffice but that he should bring his Son out from the invisible glories of heaven and show him publicly to a wondering and worshipping world.

For his own glory, the Father must one day see every knee bowed to Jesus and hear every tongue acknowledge his Lordship. And our salvation is as assured as the coming of that day! For it is we, the saints, the believers, the objects of the good work, who must be made ready for his coming on that day to be glorified with his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed.

Here is confidence indeed. Our salvation can no more be forfeited than the Father can break his pledged word to glorify his Son. No wonder, then, that Paul uses the language of a man who has no doubts: *I am sure*. The perseverance of the saints rests on the perseverance of God with the saints. *Bible Commentators, J.A. Motyer and John Stott*

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